

# SALMON-CHALLIS

# National Forest

## AT A GLANCE

The Salmon-Challis National Forest covers 4.3 million acres in east-central Idaho.

Winter 2020

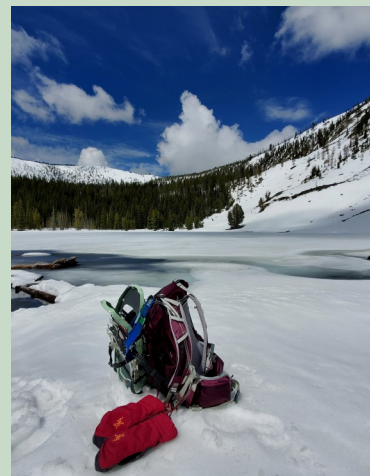
February 4, 2020



This year the Salmon-Challis National Forest treated and inventoried a total of 5,741 acres across the Forest, including 1,977 acres in the Frank Church Wilderness and 369 acres in greater sage grouse habitat. Much of the work centered on wilderness river camps, backcountry air-strips, and aerial application to treat cheatgrass and noxious weeds.

## Inside the Forest: Overview

Covering over 4.3 million acres of east-central Idaho, individuals have the opportunity to enjoy the natural landscapes of the Continental Divide, the vast, 1.3 million acres of the Frank Church-- River of No Return Wilderness, the newly designated Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness, the snow-covered cap of the tallest peak in Idaho, Borah Peak, or the free-flowing waters of the Wild & Scenic Salmon River and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.



## Come explore!

The Frankly Speaking newsletter for the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness can be found at :

<http://bit.ly/fsfcrnw>

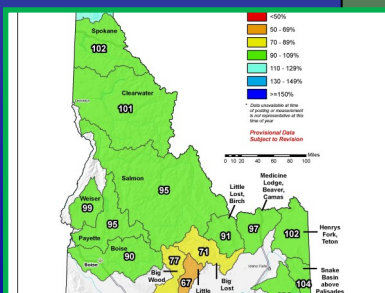
Avalanche Information can be found at:

<https://missoulaavalanche.org/>

<https://www.sawtoothavalanche.com/>

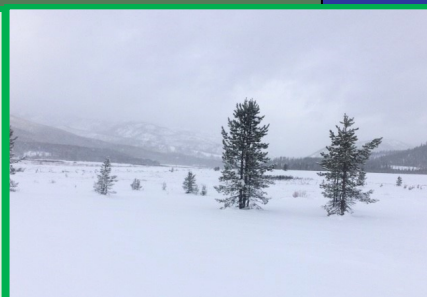


Photo from Sawtooth Avalanche Center



What is Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)? The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day.  
(Provisional Data Subject to Revision)  
[https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/id\\_sweptnormal\\_update.pdf](https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/id_sweptnormal_update.pdf)

## Marsh Creek





# Forest News

## 2019 Safety Awards

In recognition and appreciation to Jane Sandstrom, Jace James, Joe Getty, Bill Pierson, Robert Long, Melissa Fowler, and Bruce Slice for their Forest fleet work of recording district mileage, employee vehicle assistance and maintenance management to keep our Forest Fleet safely maintained.

In recognition of your professional emergency action in safety traffic control, medical incident command performance to dispatch, and medical assistance to a seriously injured driver of a cement mixer truck rollover in the Boundary Creek area. Thank you for upholding the Forest Service oath in serving the public: Christine Stewart, Trenton Stone, Rachelle Brinkley, Audra Serrian, Shawna Johansen, Mary Beth Pederson

In recognition and appreciation for Mayson Southwick's dedication and commitment to the Salmon-Challis National Forest Safety Program. Mayson actively promotes a successful safety program by working on District Job Hazard Analysis updates, weekly range staff tailgate sessions, instructing Forest First Aid/CPR/AED/Bloodborne pathogens, instructing UTV training, and teaching stock use and hazard material training.

In recognition of Lisa Cummings, Claudia Landes, and Kelly Vanderveer for going above the call of duty on their own time to provide emergency and medical assistance for a camper having heart issues at the Corn Creek campground. Thanks to their team emergency readiness and solid medical emergency actions the camper survived.

## 2019 Safety Awards continued:

In recognition of Jason Bruce and Mark Nelson for creating a high quality, well organized, thorough 2019 Salmon-Challis National Forest radio guide with a forest repeater map that contains critical information for both seasoned as well as newly hired employees concerning radio infrastructure, how to use both handheld and mobile radios, as well as proper use of the radio system. The SCNF radio system is a critical safety tool for all personnel as a first line of defense when help is needed. This SCNF guide is receiving high use among personnel.

In recognition and appreciation of Student Conservation Association Program Leader, Tim Carroll for his years of dedication to the Salmon-Challis National Forest and the SCA program, his professional working relationship with forest service personnel in annual, multiple planning projects that consist of physically challenging crew fieldwork accomplishments, and his temperance and perseverance in the Indianola SCA site establishment.

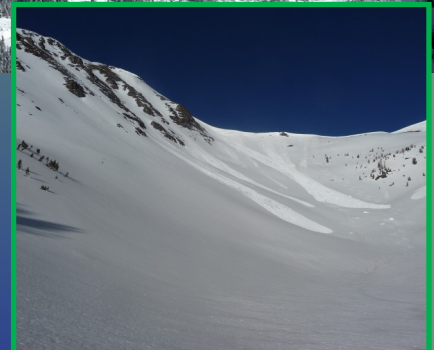
In the winter, Salmon-Challis National Forest employees Geoff Fast and Nate Meyer assist with the West Central Montana Avalanche Center (<https://missoulaavalanche.org/>). They coordinate with staff on the Bitterroot National Forest to provide observation data to avalanche forecasters with the Avalanche Center. This information is used to help develop the general West Central Montana Zone avalanche forecast. On Wednesday, at Chief Joseph ski area, the two demonstrated to Salmon 7th graders how they read the snow for avalanche danger, different snow and weather conditions that cause avalanches, and general safety tips while traveling in the backcountry during the winter. The demonstration was part of the annual Hands on the Land outdoor education event, with support from Salmon Valley Stewardship, Bureau of Land Management Salmon Field Office, and the Bitterroot Ski Club.



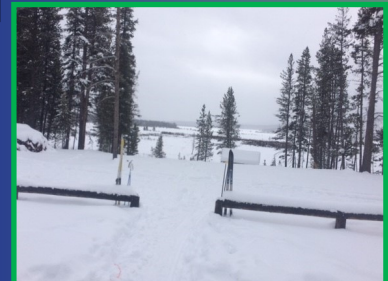
A video by the Bureau of Reclamation on the Yankee Fork: The Yankee Fork Gold Dredge provided economic opportunity for westerners in the 1940s and 1950s, but it had a dramatic effect on the Yankee Fork, a small but important tributary of the Salmon River located in south-central Idaho. The work to enhance this critical fish habitat, which will help promote the recovery of ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead, has resulted in the removal of some dredge tailing piles to reestablish more natural river channels and floodplains. But the Yankee Fork Gold Dredge and remaining diverse and wide-spread cobbles remind visitors of the dredge's glory days. Visitors and future generations can view our unique shared history and landscape with greater understanding of the past in the Yankee Fork valley. <https://youtu.be/aKPkEqgD7Q>.

Since 1984, hundreds of people across the United States have been counting wintering bald eagles early each January along standardized routes to determine bald eagle distribution, population trends, and trend by age class. This includes routes in Lemhi and Custer Counties along the Salmon and Lemhi Rivers. Last Friday, the BLM, Forest Service, Fish and Game, and a number of dedicated volunteers conducted the annual National Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey here locally. It was a chilly morning - down to zero degrees, but the bald eagles didn't mind and neither did the surveyors, many of whom have been running their routes for more than 20 years! Surveyors carefully inspect all along the length of the river reaches within the count routes for eagles going about their daily lives, whether they are roosting in a tree, foraging, flying from point A to point B, or in some cases, being mobbed and chased by other birds! The Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey is one of several methods used to track bald eagle populations in our area. We are pleased that indicators show our bald eagle population continues on a trajectory toward population growth and recovery.

Bald Eagle



Winter on the Salmon-Challis



Cape Horn December 2019

## SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

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**Deputy Forest Supervisor—Heather DeGeest**

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**What are your plans for the weekend?**

[#ItsAllYours](#) [#GoPlayDiscoverBeyond](#)